

The New Wave of Judeophobia in Western Europe

A Threat to Jews and General Society

Günther Jikeli

Historical Setting

- Jew-hatred is not a new phenomenon in Europe and it has always come in waves.
- Antisemitism has made its appearance often in times of instability, tumult and greater violence.
- Authorities have taken different positions toward antisemitic violence, usually they tried to limit riots, but during the Holocaust the German authorities organized the genocide of European Jewry, with the help of the authorities (and individuals) in many other countries.
- Today's wave of Judeophobia is certainly not comparable to antisemitism during the first half of the 20th century, even before the Nazis rose to power.
- However, the hope or the illusion that antisemitism would just vaporize after the Holocaust turns out to be unjustified.

Rise of Antisemitism Today

Indicators

Rise of antisemitic of antisemitic incidents;

Antisemitic tropes used in public discourse;

A rising number of Jews feels unsafe (taking their children from public schools to private schools, leaving the country);

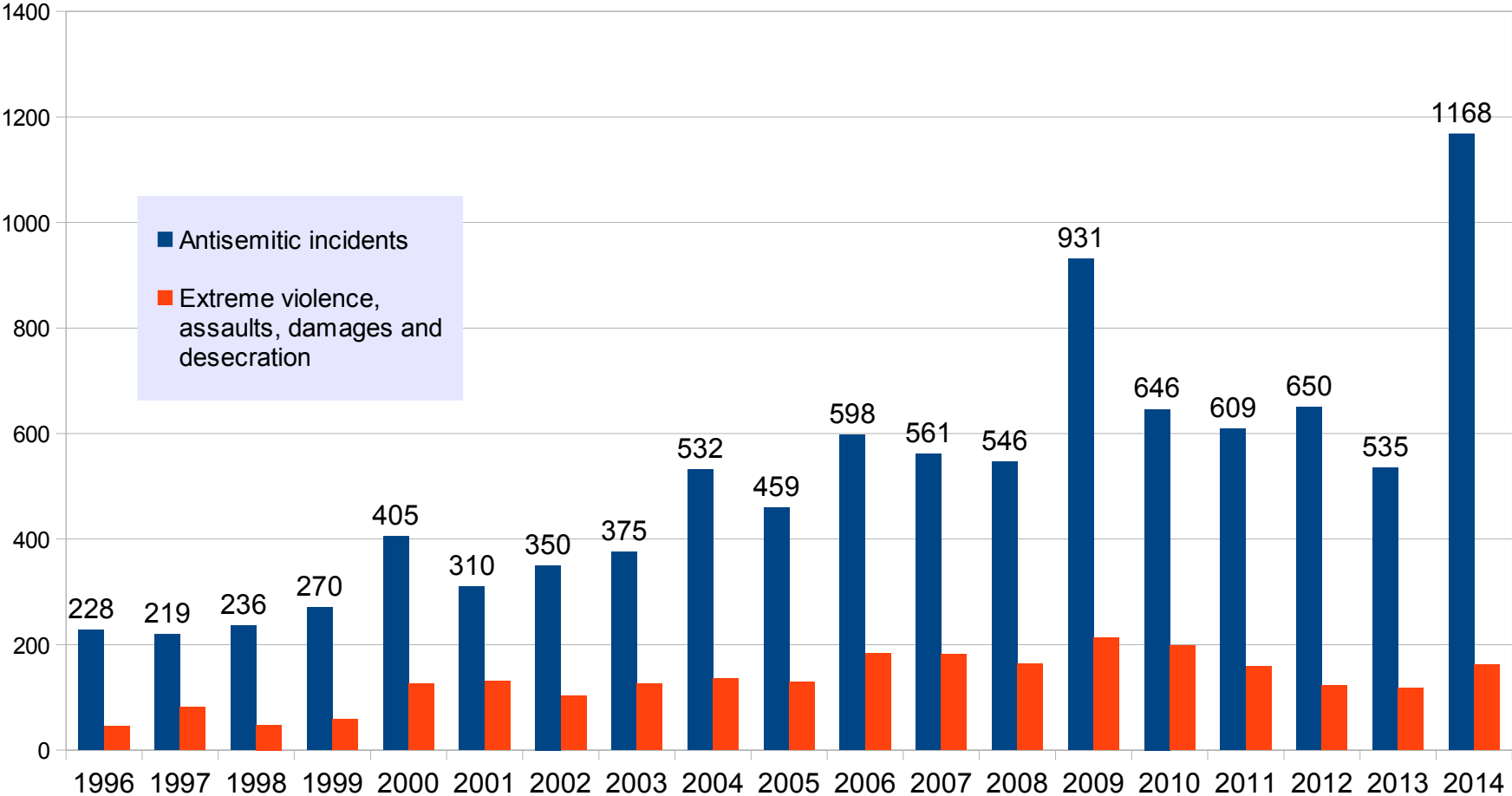
Attacks on Holocaust commemoration and remembrance;

Security threat from antisemitic Jihadists against Jews, police/soldiers, against critics of Islam (Charlie Hebdo), and the wider public;

Since early 2015 in France: 10,000 soldiers to ensure security;

From public discourse to attempts of pogroms.

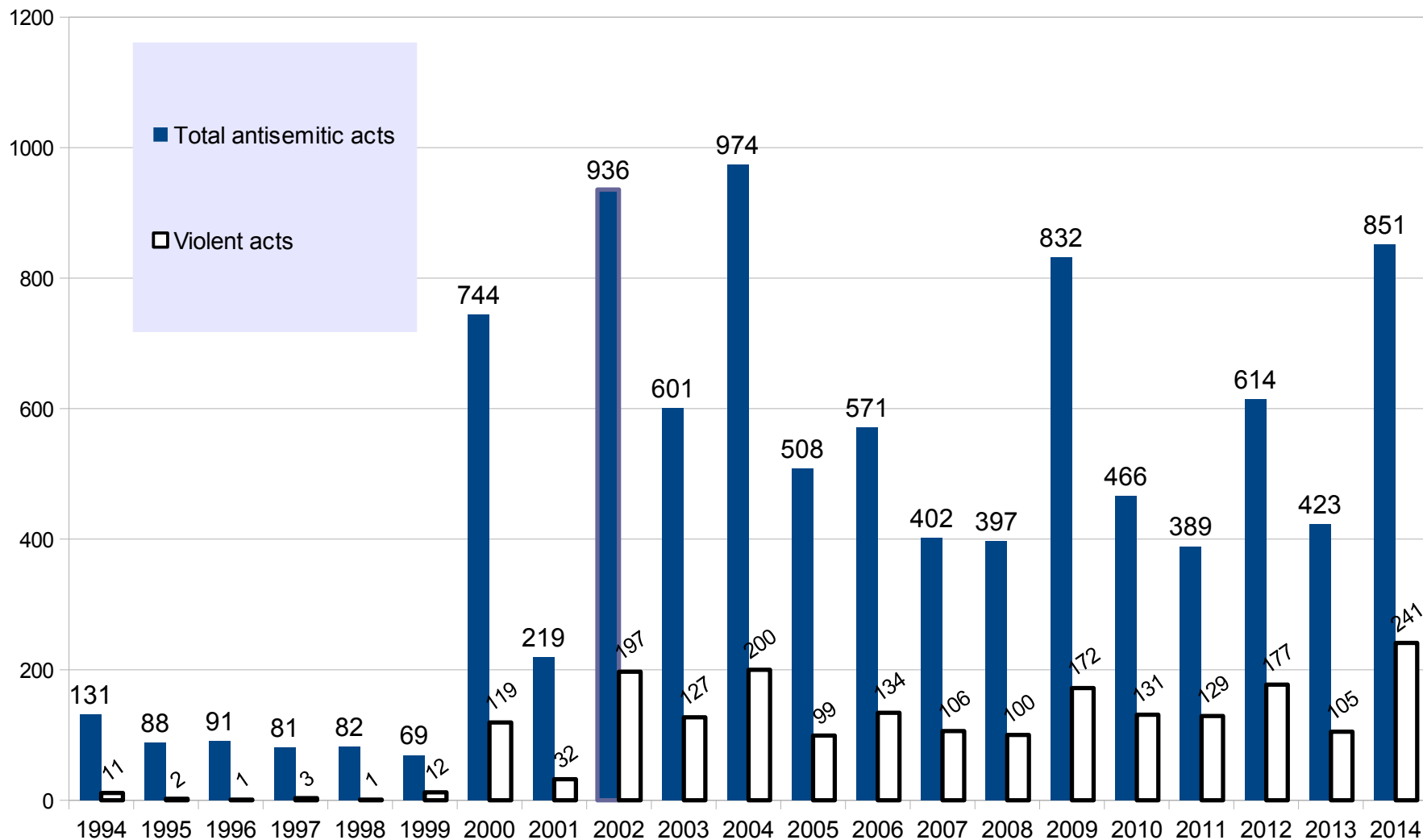
Antisemitic Incidents in the UK 1996 - 2014



Source : CST, compilation de l'auteur

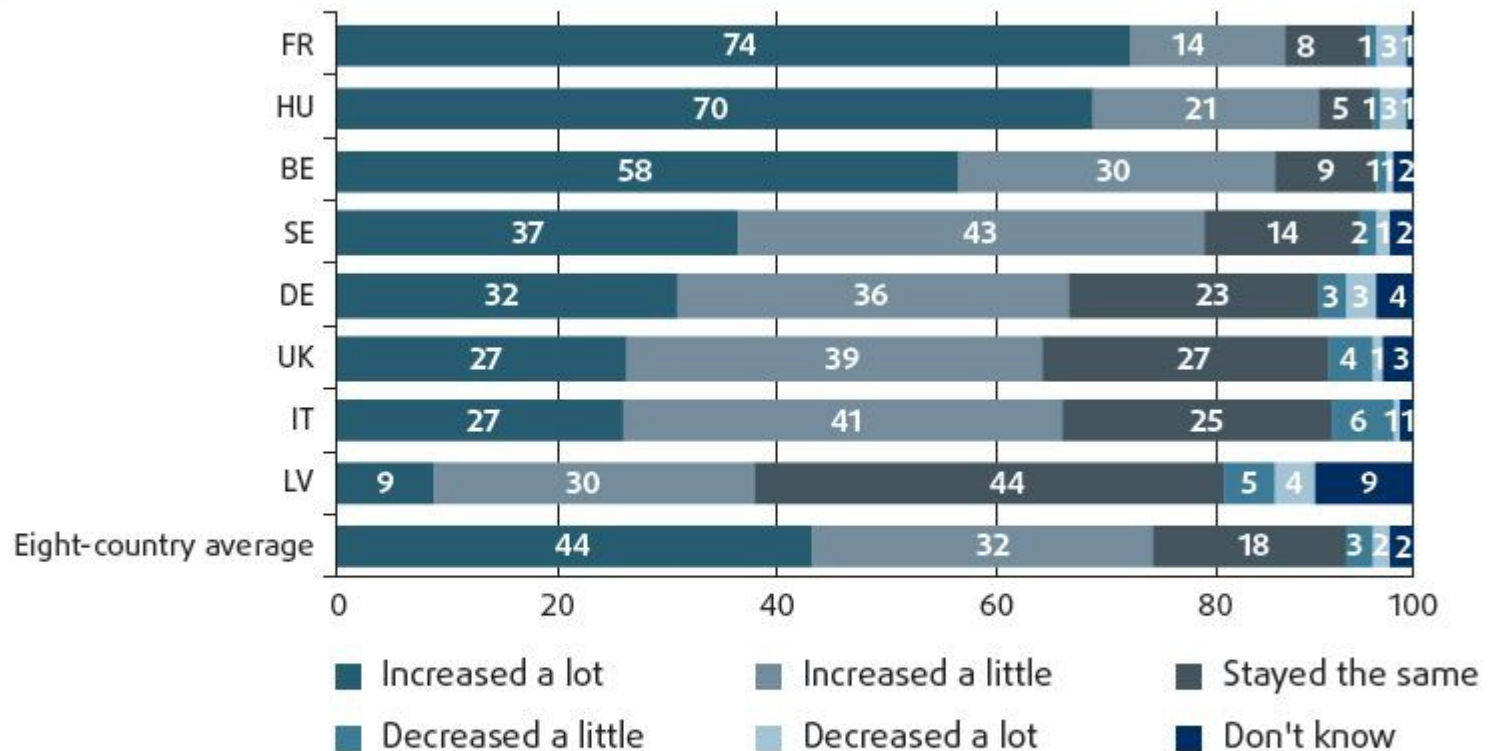
Antisemitic Acts in France 1994-2014

Source: CNCDH and SPJC, author's compilation



Jews Feel Increasingly Threatened

Figure 2: Perceptions on changes in the level of antisemitism in the country over the past five years, by EU Member State (%)



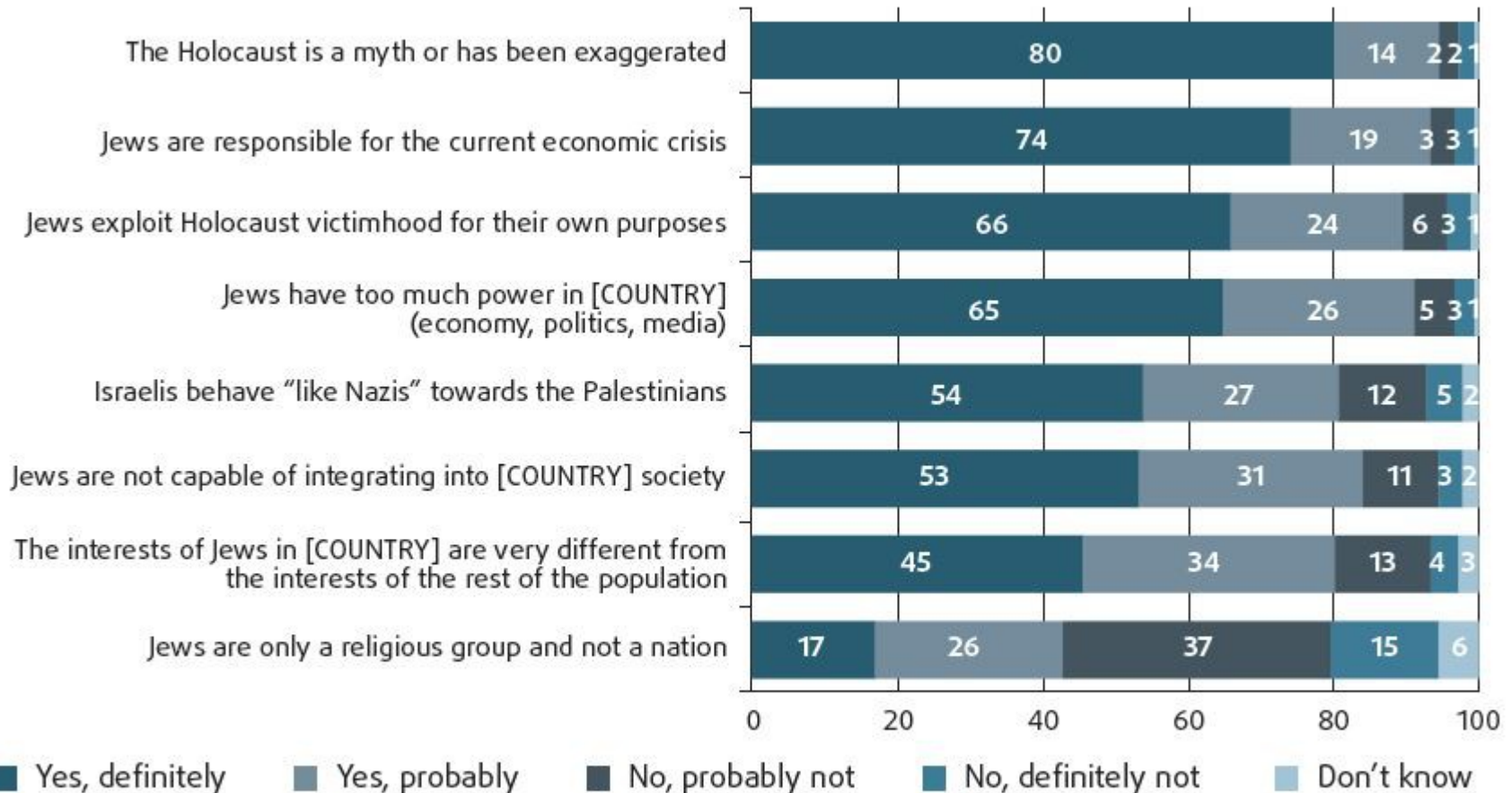
Question: B03. On the whole, do you think that over the past five years the following have increased, stayed the same or decreased in [COUNTRY]? Answer: B. Antisemitism

Note: N=5,847; due to rounding, the visual presentation of the same value might slightly differ.

Source: FRA, 2013

Most Current Tropes of Antisemitism

Figure 5: Opinions on the antisemitic nature of the selected statements when made by a non-Jewish person, average of the eight EU Member States surveyed (%)



Question: B15b. In your opinion, would you consider a non-Jewish person to be antisemitic if he or she says that: (Items as listed in the figure)?

Note: N=5,847.

Source: FRA, 2013

Groups of Actors

Different groups of actors express antisemitism in different forms!

Widespread antisemitic beliefs and antizionism in general society; (some impact on policies regarding Israel, textbooks, but most importantly: general accusation against Jews to be “Zionist”)

Parts of Muslim communities

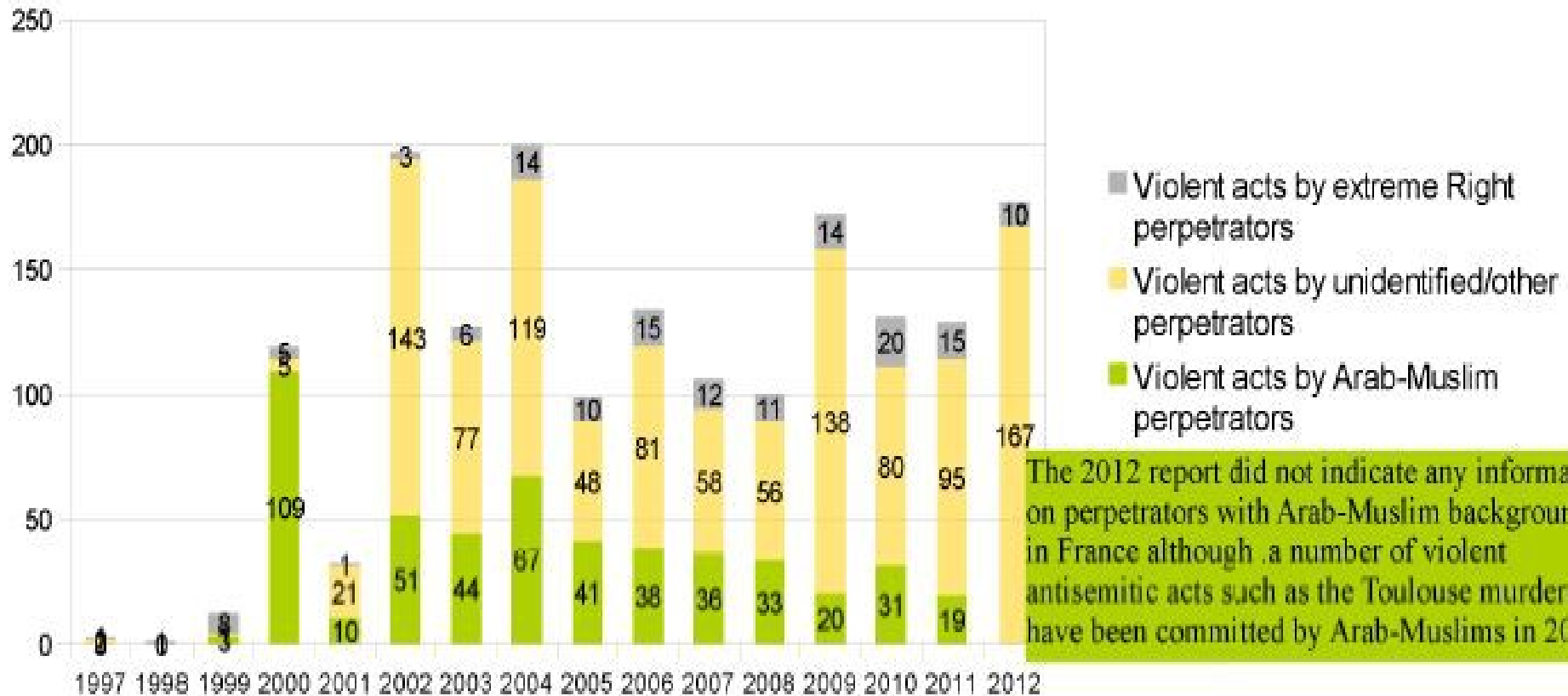
(Parts of) Extreme Right

Parts of the radical Left

Prominent individuals in the show business such as Dieudonné Mbala Mbala

Perpetrators of Violent Antisemitic Acts in France 1997-2012

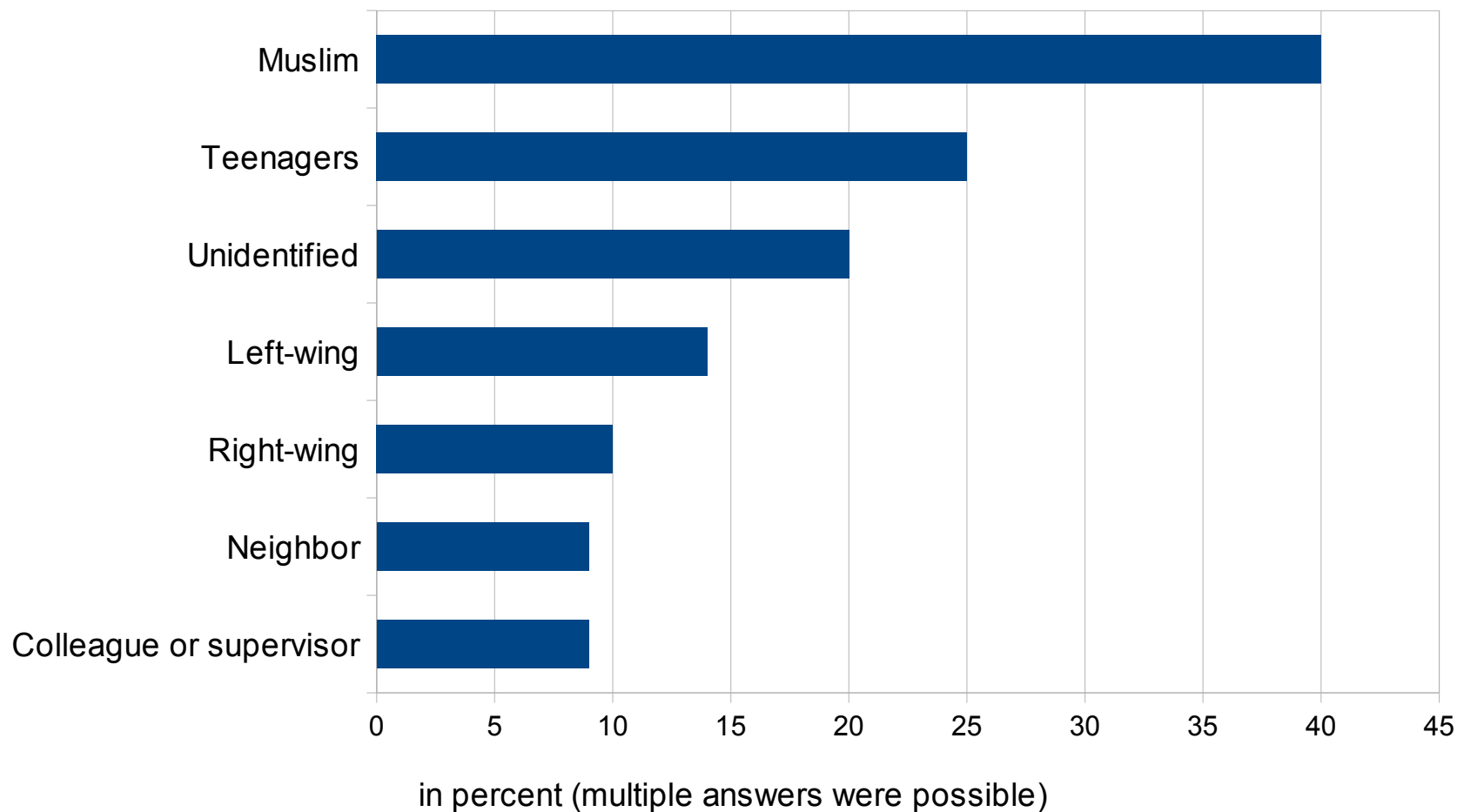
Source: CNCDH, author's illustration



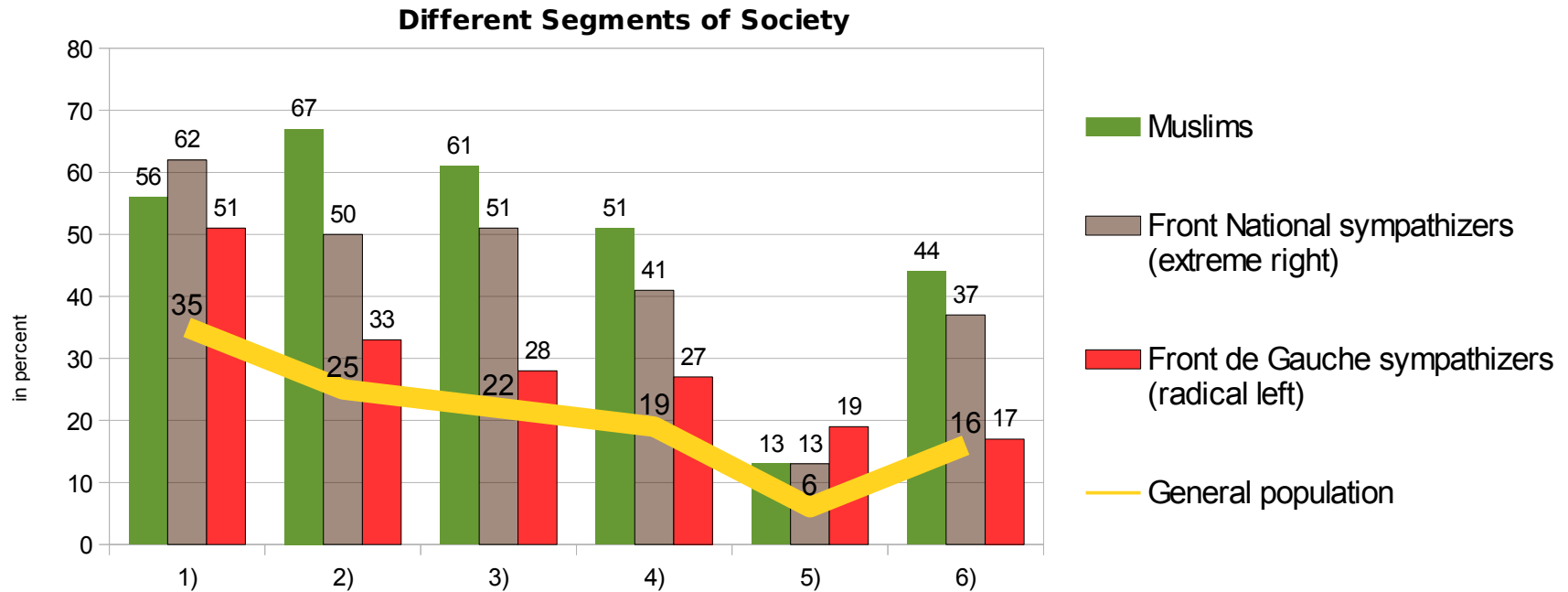
The 2012 report did not indicate any information on perpetrators with Arab-Muslim background in France although a number of violent antisemitic acts such as the Toulouse murders have been committed by Arab-Muslims in 2012.

Background of perpetrators of the most serious antisemitic violence or threats

Responses by Jewish victims in
Belgium, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Sweden, and the United Kingdom



Agreement With Antisemitic Statements in France



Source: Fondapol/ Ifop 2014, author's compilation

- 1) “The Jews use today their status of victimhood of the Nazi genocide during the Second World War for their own interest.”
- 2) “The Jews have too much power in the economy and in the financial world.”
- 3) “The Jews have too much power in the media.”
- 4) “The Jews have too much power in politics.”
- 5) “The Jews are responsible for the current economic crisis.”
- 6) “There is a Zionist conspiracy on a global scale.”

Dieudonné M'bala M'bala



Activist, blogger (Dieudosphere), stand-up comedian, business man, politician

Alliances to the Far Right, black supremacists, and Islamists.





The inverted Nazi-salut “la quanelle” in front of the Jewish school Ohr Torah (previously Ozar Hatorah) in Toulouse, France in summer 2013

Dieudonné M'bala M'bala

22 % of French under 35 have a positive view of Dieudonné.

2014: Authorities took action against his show “The Wall” (he expressed his wish that the Jewish radio journalist P. Cohen had been gassed in the show.)

His video-response to the accusation of antisemitism:

*"Antisemite? I'm not of that opinion . . . I'm not saying I'd never be one . . .
I leave myself open to that possibility, but for the moment, no . . . I don't
have to choose between the Jews and the Nazis. I'm neutral in this affair. . .
. Who provoked whom? Who robbed whom?"*

Muslim Voices Against Antisemitism

Ahmad Mansour, psychologist and activist (D)

Cem Özdemir and Özcan Mutlu, both politicians (D),

Tarek Oubrou, writer and imam (F)

Mehdi Hasan, journalist (UK)

Siavosh Derakhti, activist (SE)

Kasim Kaz Hafeez, activist (UK)

Instead of Conclusions

Hypothesis:

A) Antizionism alienates Jews and excuses and enables attacks against Jews.

B) The lack of understanding of the systematic murder of six million Jews as a rupture of civilization leads to continuation of antisemitism.

“At Auschwitz, not only man died, but also the idea of man.” E. Wiesel)

→ competition of victimhood